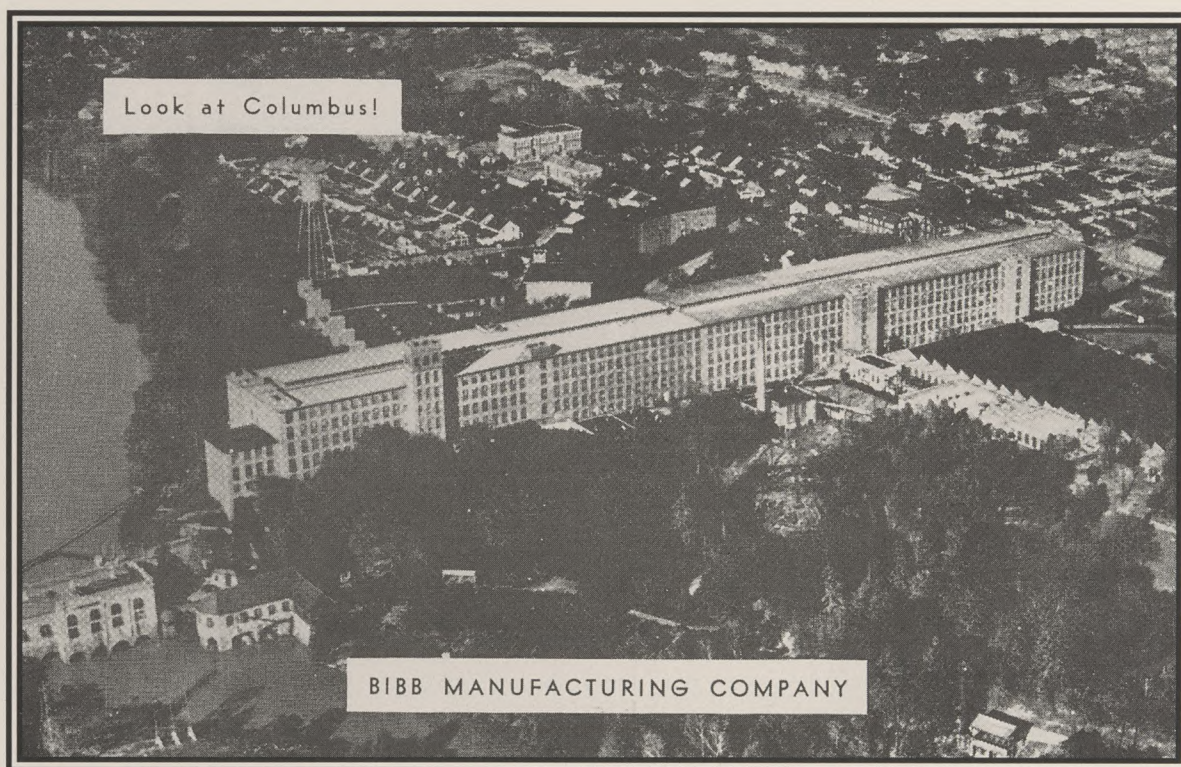


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# MUSCOGIANA



FALL 2009

VOLUME 20

NUMBER 2



**MUSCOGIANA**  
**JOURNAL OF THE MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Book reviews of both local titles and general genealogical monographs are accepted for inclusion in *Muscogiana*. Reviews should be 350-750 words, and should contain an overview of the work and an analysis on the value of the work to genealogists and other researchers in the region. The editor maintains a list of books for review, which is available on request.

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## MUSCOGIANA

### Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society

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UNIVERSITY

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## From the Editor's Desk

For this issue, we offer up a veritable feast for connoisseurs of Columbus and Chattahoochee Valley history. In "The Island Mystery," Jesse "Buddy" Williams seeks an answer to why islands in the Chattahoochee River in Muscogee and Harris Counties were once numbered. Williams offers readers a glimpse into his research methodology and provides several key documents he uncovered while trying to solve his "mystery." At the end, he challenges genealogists and local historians to help him solve it. For the second piece, "Bibb City, Collected Lives from a Mill Town: Interpreting a Community for the Community," Dr. Amanda Rees and Dr. Becky Becker, professors at Columbus State University, describe "a unique multi-disciplinary project" they directed in May 2009. The project involved more than forty CSU students, who conducted oral interviews, researched the history of Bibb City, devised a walking tour of the community, created a ten-panel exhibit, and, finally, wrote and performed an hour-long play based on the oral histories. The walking tour, written by one of the student participants, Mindy Gillow, has been included in this issue. In the fourth piece, Dr. Virginia Causey, history professor at CSU, describes some of the fascinating tidbits of information she has uncovered while conducting research for an upcoming history of Columbus. Once completed, her book will be the first "academic analytical history" of the Fountain City. Last, we offer a brand new section for *Muscogiana* called the "Local History Corner," which will appear in the fall edition of the journal. In it, we will profile various individuals who have researched and written about Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley region. Dr. John Lupold, former CSU history professor and author of *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King*, has been profiled for this issue.

Finally, I would like to again invite readers to send in their submissions. We need good book reviews, articles, queries, primary sources, and genealogy for upcoming issues. If you are working on something, please send it to me at: Gary S. Sprayberry, Department of History & Geography, Columbus State University, 4225 University Avenue, Columbus, GA, 31907. Or you can send an electronic copy to me at [sprayberry\\_gary@colstate.edu](mailto:sprayberry_gary@colstate.edu).

Gary S. Sprayberry

Editor

On the Cover:

**Bibb Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Georgia (1940)**

From the Dennis Jones Postcard Collection, 1908-1970

Courtesy of the Columbus Public Library



## **The Island Mystery**

by

Jesse Lamar Williams

To me, researching history is fascinating and intriguing. To others it is just trivial. Sometimes it is hard to find anyone who shares my passion for history. That is why I am honored to bring this before people who may be able to shed some light upon the topic. I am not a professional scholar or teacher, but a lover of history, especially the history of Muscogee County, Georgia, and the surrounding Chattahoochee Valley region. Recently, while conducting research on Raphael J. Moses' Equiline Plantation, I ran across some puzzling information in a deed I had uncovered in the county courthouse. On January 31, 1887, R. J. and Elisa M. Moses signed an indenture with the Chattahoochee Falls Company for Eight Hundred and Thirty (830) acres. According to the deed, the property lay on both the Georgia and Alabama sides of the river, and it included Island Number Three in the Chattahoochee River.<sup>1</sup> That sparked my curiosity. How many people in our day and age know that the islands were once numbered? I have asked many people, including Billy Winn, local writer and historian, Dalton Royer, archivist at Columbus State University Archives, and Dr. John Lupold, retired professor of history, what they knew of this, but they had never heard of this matter. The islands in the Chattahoochee River – the ones in Muscogee and Harris Counties, at least – were once designated by numbers. This intrigued me, so I continued to investigate.

In the Muscogee County Courthouse, in the offices of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the deed room is located on the south end of the last aisle to the east. The deed records only date back to 1836 because that year a fire destroyed the Muscogee County Courthouse. I tried to read all of the deeds for the Chattahoochee Falls Company and Columbus Manufacturing Company, as well as the Columbus Factory. I could not find any recorded deeds under the name "Clapp's Factory." This was just a name used by locals when they referred to the factory "three miles north of the City of



Columbus". Julius Clapp had been a part of the management (and later ownership) of the mill from the beginning in 1834 until his death in the early 1870's. In the old indexes to the deed books, in the far right hand column, there are codes for each indenture or transaction. A description for the codes is supposed to be in the index book but has been removed or lost over the years. To make it easier to locate deeds, I had to teach myself how to read the codes in the index. For instance, "D" stands for deed, "C" stands for city, and "L" stands for lot, which is then followed by a number. Therefore, DCL24 would indicate that the transaction was a Deed for City Lot Twenty-four. If the transaction is for an island, then the word "island" is a part of that code. The Muscogee County Deed Books were microfilmed in the 1960's and copies of the old deed books can also be found at the Chattahoochee Regional Library.

While researching Island Number Three, I worked under the impression that since it was included in a deed with the Chattahoochee Falls Company it would be the same island upon which one end of the old mill sat. But that cannot be. Here is why: In a deed dated May 24, 1848, John Fontaine conveyed to Charles Stewart half interest in Island Number Three, "the same island granted to John Fontaine by the state of Georgia containing sixteen (16) acres more or less."<sup>2</sup> But there were no islands of this size in the area of the river where the Chattahoochee Falls Company was located. The small size of this island is evident in a drawing of the mill complex in an 1889 Sanborn Map.<sup>3</sup>

The mystery does not end there. I found a second numbered island while researching the Rock Island Paper Factory. I did not find a number for the Rock Island, but I did locate a reference to the Rock Island's location. In the Georgia Supreme Court case of *Cook v. Winters et al* (1881), the Rock Island Factory site is described as the first island below Island Twenty-seven.<sup>4</sup> I know where Island Twenty-seven was located because I know the location of Rock Island. It is in the reservoir created by the Georgia Power's North Highland Power Plant Dam (also known as the Bibb Dam). The

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<sup>1</sup> "R.J. Moses and Wife," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book Z, p. 489.

<sup>2</sup> "John Fontaine to Charles Stewart," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book D, p. 267.

<sup>3</sup> "Chattahoochee Falls M'F'G. Company," *Sanborn Map & Publishing Co.*, March 1889, sheet 25.

<sup>4</sup> *Cook v. Winter et al*, 68 GA 259 (1881).



reservoir is known by locals as the Bibb Pond. Before the dam was built, Rock Island covered four acres, but today it only covers two acres because of the water backed up in the reservoir.

I uncovered yet another numbered island while I was actively searching for deeds containing numbered islands in the Chattahoochee River. I have studied the water lots in Columbus extensively. In December 1841, the Columbus mayor and city council agreed to sell to John H. Howard and Josephus Echols all the even-numbered water lots between two and thirty-six on condition that "they shall erect a suitable sufficient and well constructed dam across the Chattahoochee River terminating at the Eastern bank thereof at any point on or above lot number one in the aforesaid drawn plot and survey designated and below the North common lots, so that when said river is at its usual height, five feet of head of water may be obtained on said lot number one."<sup>5</sup> Because Howard and Echols were successful, in 1843, the mayor and city council agreed to sell John H. Howard and Josephus Echols the odd numbered lots, one through thirty-seven. Stephen M. Ingersoll already had a gristmill on the Alabama shore about 300 yards above Howard and Echols' Water Lot One.<sup>6</sup> This mill was probably built even before the construction of Seaborn Jones' City Mills in 1828. Over the years, there were many lawsuits involving the Columbus Water Lots. The most important lawsuit, and the one relevant here, was *Howard et al v. Ingersoll* (1851).<sup>7</sup> In that case the, US Supreme Court decided that Georgia owned the Chattahoochee River to the normal high water limit on the western or Alabama shore. Because Howard and Echols had used their own resources in this endeavor to sue Ingersoll, the State of Georgia wanted to reward them by selling the remaining islands in the Chattahoochee River and giving the proceeds to them.<sup>8</sup> Knowing this, I searched for deeds under the names John H. Howard or Josephus Echols, which is how I found Island Twenty-eight. This island turned out to be the easiest to locate.

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<sup>5</sup> "Mayor and Council of Columbus to Howard and Echols," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book B, p. 325.

<sup>6</sup> "Mayor and Council of Columbus to John H. Howard," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book C, p. 172.

<sup>7</sup> *Howard v. Ingersoll*, 54 U.S. 381 (1851).

<sup>8</sup> "An Act to compensate Josephus Echols and John H. Howard for their expenditures, expenses, professional and other services, concerning the boundary line in dispute, between this State and the State of Alabama; and for other purposes therein named," *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, Passed in Milledgeville, at a Biennial Session, in November, December, January, and February 1853-4*, February 18, 1854, p. 520-21.



The first deed concerning Island Twenty-eight is a deed from John L. Moore to John C. Sneed. Next, John C. Sneed sold it to Josephus Echols. The two transactions are on the same page in the deed book.<sup>9</sup> There is also a plat drawn and a description in the deed. When Muscogee County was first laid out, except for the Coweta Reserve, it was done so in a plat of blocks that covered about two hundred acres. When they reach the irregular shape of the river, the blocks become fractional. Island Twenty-eight was described as "an island in the Chattahoochee River, containing one acre more or less, and known as number Twenty Eight, opposite fraction number ninety one on the Georgia side of said river."<sup>10</sup>

A few months back, I learned that the *Columbus Enquirer* newspaper from 1828 to 1890 had been digitized and put on the Internet by the University of Georgia. I accessed it through Galileo. With the aid of this marvelous resource, I searched for articles containing information on the islands in the Chattahoochee River and found nothing on this subject. Most articles that included the word "island" concerned Cuba or other sea islands. One day, while researching another topic in the *Enquirer*, I ran across a completely unrelated article about islands in the Chattahoochee River. According to this piece, the properties of Sowell Woolfolk, deceased, were being sold off for the benefit of his heirs. James Wadsworth served as administrator of the sale. These properties included Islands Eight through Fourteen in the Chattahoochee River in Harris County, Georgia, and totaled 232 acres.<sup>11</sup> So far, I have not been to the Harris County Courthouse to research these, so I have no idea of their location. This did not cure my fever but only fed the fire.

The puzzle has not been completely solved with the discovery of some plat showing all the numbered islands and the reasons they were numbered. If I had waited until it was solved to write this article, then you would not have been reading it. However, as fate would have it, on the day I started to write this piece, I did make a last ditch effort to find the location of Island Three. And I succeeded. In October 1839, the *Columbus Enquirer* published an ad by John Bethune, Commissioner

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<sup>9</sup> "John C Moore to James Sneed," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book G, p. 141.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> "Administrator's Sale," *Columbus Enquirer*, January 19, 1833, p. 4.



of Surveys for the State of Georgia, concerning Island Three. According to the ad, the island contained sixteen acres of second quality land below and nearly opposite the Columbus Factory. It read: "This Island has a beautiful Creek or Branch of the River, running the whole length of the island, which is about a quarter of a mile in length."<sup>12</sup>

One purpose of this work is to request help in finding a plat(s) and discovering the reason why the islands were numbered. Another is to share this knowledge with others of like mind. I would rather not hoard this treasure of knowledge but spend it on others so they may profit from my research. I know people who do genealogy and only hoard their hard work instead of sharing. When they pass on, all of their hard work and mental gains will be like the sands of time spread like their ashes on the land, only to be hard earned and collected again by another genealogist.

The readers of this article may already know the answers I seek. If so, please let me know. My email address is [jessewilliams@columbusga.org](mailto:jessewilliams@columbusga.org). Readers, even if it is five, ten, twenty or more years from now, if you find any piece of the puzzle, please write it down so future history enthusiasts will know. Make it possible for others to find a different puzzle to solve.

Below, I have included a number of documents and other primary sources related to this topic.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> "Notice," *Columbus Enquirer*, October 23, 1839, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Notes on sources: In some of the documents below, there are a number of underlined blank spaces. This was intentional. These blank spaces were present in the original documents. The editor took the liberty of underlining the blank spaces.



**"R J Moses & Wife to The Chattahoochee Falls Company"<sup>14</sup>**

This indenture made this thirty first day of January in the year of our lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven between R J Moses and Eliza M Moses wife of R J Moses of the State of Georgia and County of Muscogee of the one part & The Chattahoochee Falls Company of the State of Georgia and County of Muscogee of the other part. Witnessith that the said R J Moses and Elisa M Moses for and in consideration

Of the sum of Thirty Three Hundred Dollars to them in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents (The Receipt of is surly acknowledged)\_\_\_\_\_granted bargained sold and conveyed and doth by these presents grant bargain sell and convey unto the said Chattahoochee Falls Company its successors and assigns. All their right to the and interest being 11/540ths Eleven – Five Hundred and fortieth interest in and to all those lots of land lying and being as follows Fractional section No 26 and the North half of fractional section No 35 both in fractional Township No 18 Range No 30 in former Russell now Lee County State of Alabama.

Also in the following lots of land lying in the 8<sup>th</sup> District of Muscogee County State of Georgia Known as lots No 86 and 87 and the west half of lot No 74 and fractions numbered 91 and 92 Island No 3 in the Chattahoochee River and a small enclosure situated (illegible) of the residence formerly occupied by J R Clapps and used as a residence and grazing lot containing 7 acres more or less all of said just described land lying and being in Muscogee County Georgia and together with said land in Lee County Alabama containing 830 Eight Hundred and Thirty acres more or less Also all of the Buildings and improvements formerly owned by the Columbus Manufacturing Company on said lands in Muscogee County Georgia consisting of a complete cotton factory with all of the improvements and appurtenances thereof inclusive of the cards spindles looms machinery and fixtures of every kind whatever contained in said buildings also all and singular the other buildings and improvements on all the lands in this instrument aforementioned and described together with the entire water power herefore owned and controlled by the said Columbus Manufacturing Company on and in the said Chattahoochee River and with all and singular the rights manufactories therein the sum together with all the property here before described and conveyed being the identified property and all the rights privileges and apparatuses Thereof conveyed to the said R J Moses by deeds from Lionel C Levy Jr dated Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 1881, The said Eliza M Moses joining in this deed for the purpose of removing all of her domain and right of domain in and to the land hereby conveyed in accordance with the statues and laws of the state of Alabama.

To have and to hold the said bargained premises (?) unto the said Chattahoochee Falls Company its successors and assigns together with all used (illegible) the right members and apparatuses thereof to the same in any number belonging to them their own proper an benefits and behalf in fee simple and the said R J Moses and Eliza M Moses for Themselves and for their heirs and executors and administrators the said bargained premises unto the said Chattahoochee Falls Company its successors heirs and assigns will warrant and forever defend the rights and title thereof (illegible) themselves and against the claims of the heirs executors administrators and assigns.

In testimony whereof the said R J Moses and Eliza M Moses with hereto set their hands and affixes their seals the day and year written.

Signed sealed delivered

R J Moses

In the presence of CH Dillingham

Lionel C Levy Jr

E M Moses

<sup>14</sup> "R.J. Moses and Wife," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book Z, p. 489.



**"Indenture: John Fontaine to Charles D. Stewart"<sup>15</sup>**

Georgia  
Muscogee County

This indenture made and enter into between John Fontaine of the first part and Charles D. Stuart of the second part witnesseth that for and in consideration of The sum of ten dollars to him in hand paid of the first part by Charles Stewart of the second part the receipt where of I do hereby acknowledge hath granted, bargained and sold and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell unto Charles D. Stewart aforesaid his heirs & assigns forever in fee simple, the one undivided half of that island being & lying in the county and state aforesaid in the Chattahoochee river known and distinguished by number three (3) having such shapes, form & marks as will more fully appear by reference to a plat issued by John Bethune Surveyor on the sixteenth day of June 1839, the same being granted to John Fontaine by the State of Georgia containing sixteen acres (16) be the same more or less with all & regular the improvements and appurtenances there unto belonging. To have and to hold the aforesaid premises to him the said Charles D. Stuart, his heirs & assigns forever. In testimony where of I have here unto set my hand and affix my seal this 24<sup>th</sup> day of may 1848.

Tes J. B Hill

Mansfred Torrance

Jno. Fontaine      Seal

Recorded June 24<sup>th</sup> 1848

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<sup>15</sup> "John Fontaine to Charles Stewart," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book D, p. 267.







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*Cook vs. Winter et al.*

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Georgia and Alabama, and also of the dams extending from the western bank of the river to the factory, and were manufacturing paper thereat, such deeds were at least admissible as color of title, though the mill itself was in the river, and most of the property in Georgia.

- (a.) Of course if objection was withdrawn to their admission, no exception can be taken thereto.
2. A prescriptive title was shown in this case, and the finding of the court, presiding without a jury, was right.

Evidence. Title. Deed. New Trial. Before Judge WILLIS. Muscogee Superior Court. May Term, 1881.

Reported in the decision.

PORTER INGRAM; JAMES M. SMITH, for plaintiff in error.

BLANDFORD & GARRARD; R. J. MOSES, for defendants.

SPEER, Justice.

An action of ejectment was brought by the defendant in error on the several demises of Josiah Morris and John G. Winter against Richard Roe, casual ejector, and James C. Cook, as tenant in possession, to recover a parcel of land, with the appurtenances, lying and being in the county of Muscogee and state of Georgia, known as the site of the Rock Island Paper Mills, the dam and all the power, rights, privileges, appurtenances and property of said Rock Island Paper Mills in the Chattahoochee river to high-water mark on the western side of said river, together with the island in said river known as Rock Island, being the island to which the Rock Island Paper Mills extended its dam from the factory site on the Alabama shore, said island being the first island below island number 27, containing four acres.

To this action the defendant, Cook, filed a plea of the general issue. When the case was called for trial, by agreement of counsel, it was consented that the cause

Digitized by Google

Fig. 2. From *Cook v. Winter et al*, 68 GA 259 (1881)



**"Mayor and Council of Columbus to Howard and Echols"<sup>16</sup>**

This Indenture made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and forty one between the Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus now in session of the first part and Jno H Howard and Josephus Echols of the City aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars to them in hand paid by the said Jno H. Howard and Josephus Echols at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt where of is hereby acknowledged, and for and in consideration of the performance on the part of the said Jno H. Howard and Josephus Echols of the conditioned herein aforesaid, and for and in consideration of their Bond made to said Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus bearing date thirteenth day of June in the year aforesaid requiring under a penalty the performance of said conditions. They the said Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus have bargained and sold aliened granted and conveyed and by these presents do bargain sell alien grant and convey to the said Jno H. Howard and Josephus Echols their heirs Executors administration and assigns all of those Lots of Land of even numbers situate lying and being in said City of Columbus aforesaid each being seventy two feet wide North and South more or less and extending and running East and West from Bay Street as defined in the plot and plan of survey above and herein written to high water mark on the Western bank of the Chattahoochee River and between Franklin and Crawford Streets and known and distinguished and designated in the plan plot and survey aforesaid as numbers Two Four Six Eight Ten Twelve Fourteen Sixteen Eighteen Twenty Two Twenty Four and Thirty Six to have and to hold the said bargained lots of even numbers together with all singular the rights members privileges and appendences thereunto belonging to anymore, to them the said John H. Howard and Josephus Echols their heirs Executors demonstrators and assigns and to their own proper use benefit and behalf forever in fee simple subject to the following conditions. The said Jno H. Howard and Josephus Echols shall erect a suitable sufficient and well constructed dam across the Chattahoochee River terminating at the Eastern Bank thereof at any point on or above lot number one in the aforesaid plan plot and survey designated and below the north common lots, so that when said River is at its usual height five feet head of water may be obtained on said lot number one and an increase had on each of the lots below it for the purpose of propelling machinery by an almost level canal or race and to construct and form a safe and well constructed Canal or race extending from said dam through all of said lots said Dam to be so high and said Canal or Race to be so capacious that when said River falls to the lowest height at which it usually stands in any dry weather all water of said River may as it runs down pass through said Canal or race and keep said dam and race forever in good repair said lots of even numbers and their Improvements and no their property whatever to be forever liable for payment of any damage which said City or any person or persons or company of persons to whom they may sell and convey any one or more of said lots of odd numbers may sustain by Reason of a failure to complete said race or Canal or tom keep the same and said Dam in good repair and to commence in good faith and not evasively the erection of said Dam and construction of said Canal or Race within twelve months from the twenty ninth day of June in the year aforesaid and to have said Dam completed and said Canal or Race so far completed that said five feet head of water may be obtained on said lot number one and available for propelling machinery within twenty seven months from the date hereof and to fully complete said Canal or race within five years from the day and year last aforesaid and in event of a failure to erect said Dam and said Race within the time limited said Lots of even numbers shall revert to said Mayor and Council.

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<sup>16</sup> "Mayor and Council of Columbus to Howard and Echols," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book B, p. 325.



In Testimony whereof the said Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus have affixed their command seal and signatures and delivered in presence of

John L Louis Mayor  
N M C Robinson  
Hugh McDonald  
Alderman

Joseph Sturges  
Jno P Howell  
J L Morton  
John Quin  
S G Wells

John Bethune  
Test James Shaw

W S Holstead  
Thomas Berry  
A J Abbott  
P H Clayton  
Thomas Morris

The above Plan represents the Water Lots on Bay Street containing thirty seven Lots (37) from the South line of Franklin Street to North line of Crawford Street a distance of 2662 feet 4 inches or 887 yards and 1 foot and four inches each lot containing 72 feet North & South Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1841

John Bethune  
Surveyor

I William A Douglas clerk of the Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus aforesaid do hereby certify that the written deed was executed signed and sealed with the common seal of said Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus by them on the twenty second day of December in the year Eighteen Hundred and Forty One and then and there delivered that the seal here unto annexed is the common Seal of said Mayor and Council and that same has done in open cession In the Chambers aforesaid. In witness I again here unto annexed the seal of said Mayor & Council of the City of Columbus this twenty seventh day of December Eighteen Hundred & Forty One.

Wm A Douglas Clk

### **"Mayor and Council of Columbus to John H. Howard"<sup>17</sup>**

This Indenture made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ the year of our lord one thousand Eight hundred and forty three, between the Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus now in cession in the city hall in the said City of Columbus in the County and State aforesaid of the first part and John H Howard of the said County and State of the second part. Witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration afore of the sum of Five Thousand Dollars to the Treasurer of the City of Columbus in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents do grant bargain sell alien convey confirm unto the said John H Howard his heirs assigns all those tracts or lots of land that's lying and being between Franklin & Crawford Streets in said City and laid off and surveyed as and called Water Lots and running East and West from Bay Street as defined in said lot plan across the Chattahoochee River to the line which divides the State of Georgia from the State of Alabama, on the Western bank of said river, said lots being each seventy two feet wide north and south, and known and distinguished on the plan of said survey as lots of odd numbers to wist numbers (1) one three (3) five (5) seven (7) nine (9) eleven (11) thirteen (13) fifteen (15) seventeen (17) nineteen (19) twenty one (21) Twenty three (23) twenty five (25) twenty seven (27) twenty nine (29) thirty one (31) thirty three (33) thirty five (35) thirty seven (37). To have and to hold the right till and interest which the said party of the first part has in it to said bargained lots and for (*illegible text*) is together with all and singular the rights numbers and appurtenances and privileges this (*illegible text*) as anyone bargaining to or appertaining so far as the same are vested in and belonging to the said party of the first part to them

<sup>17</sup> Mayor and Council of Columbus to John H. Howard," *Muscogee County Deeds*, Book C, p. 172.



the said John H Howard his heirs and assigns forever in fee simple, also the privilege of getting out and using in improvements upon any of the before mentioned lots any (*illegible text*) in said River above or below said lots, provided the privilege shall not be used so as to injure the Banks of the River or any works which may have been made or may hereafter be made to protect said Banks or in anymore restrict the right of the party of the first part or their assigns from the (*illegible text*) and benefit of the same privilege and is hereby covenanted and agreed between the said parties, that the said party of the first part and their successors in office to the said John H Howard and his heirs and assigns do forever quit claim to all their right title and interest in and to said lots, warranting and defending said title only from the claim of themselves and their successors in office. And it is further covenanted and agreed between the said parties that nothing herein contained shall in anywise impair or effect the validity of a contract entered into by the said party of the first part with J J Boswell in the year Eighteen hundred and forty two as the same appears and is set forth upon the minutes of the proceedings of the City Council for said year but that the rights and interest thereby conveyed to the said Boswell for lot number twenty one (21) in said survey and hereby reserved and right of the party of the first part now existing or which may hereafter accrue by the nonperformance of the conditions of the said contract by the said Boswell are hereby conveyed to the said John H Howard. And it is further covenanted and agreed between the parties aforesaid that the said party of the first part reserve to themselves the right to raise a revenue on said lots and improvements which may be placed thereon by taxation in the same manner and to the same extent and no further than the city council may exercise in condition to other property both real and personal within the city. And it is hereby covenanted and agreed between the parties that the said John H Howard his heirs and assigns shall improve one or more of said lots by the erection of machinery to be propelled by water within four years from the date hereof and that all the conditions limitations restrictions and provisions of deed made by the said party of the first part to John H Howard and Josephus Echols bearing date in December in the year Eighteen hundred and forty one for the lots of even numbers in said plan and survey shall be and are hereby made a part and parcel of the conveyance and shall be binding upon the parties hereto to all intents and purposes as if the same were herein specifically set forth And if it is further agreed by said parties that the said John H Howard his heirs and assigns shall be forever restricted from erecting a Bridge for any purpose whatever free or for toll across said river on any of said water lots now or heretofore granted within the limits of the plan of the survey of said lots. And it is further covenants and agreed by said parties that the right of way across said River and to and from the river through said lots at a place thereon known as the Basin shall be reserved and there shall be forever kept open extending Bay Street to said Basin a space for a Road sufficiently wide to allow carriages to pass each other in going to and returning from said basin. And to this end the canal or race specified in the conditions of a conveyance executed and delivered to said John H Howard and Josephus Echols by the Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus, in December Eighteen hundred and forty one, herein before referred to shall terminate at said Basin and below the space allowed for said road another canal or race shall commence taking its water out of said Basin which shall extend through all of said lots below and shall be of sufficient capacity to supply all of said last mentioned lots with a sufficient quantity of water to propel the machinery effectually which shall or may be placed and erected thereon. Provided that this alliteration of said original contract shall in no way impair the validity and force of any bond obligation or agreement heretofore entered into by said John H Howard and Josephus Echols conditioned for the faithful performance of there said contract. And it is further covenants and agreed between the parties that the right of way across the river and to and from said river through said lots in one other place to be designed by the party of the first part not in three months from the date hereof shall be reserved for public connivance which right of way shall be sufficiently extended to allow the building of a bridge as wide as the one now belonging to the City or otherwise to (*illegible text*) of way across the river. And it is further agreed by said parties that the right to fish at any place in the River and bank thereof herby conveyed shall be and are reserved to the City of Columbus provided that traps and fixtures shall not be used but this right to include the fishing with hook sine or net as new used on said lots or other things requiring no fixtures of a permanent character. And it is further covenanted and agreed that the right of the city to use the gravel and sand in the river and on the banks on said



lots shall be reserved. Provided that in taking away said sand and gravel no injury shall be done to the River Bank or to any works which may be made or erected in pursue ant of the contract And it is hereby further expressly covenanted and stipulated by and between the said parties that the title hereby conveyed shall be subject to all the conditions contained in the aforesaid conveyance to the said Howard and Echols respecting the building of the dam and race or canal therefore mentioned so that the said lots of odd numbers hereby conveyed and for lots of even numbers in said conveyance mentioned shall stand upon the same footing with regard to their liability to revert to said Mayor and Council of Columbus and so that should said lots of even numbers by virtue of said conditions or any part thereof or failure to comply with the same (saving the conditions herein before specified ) revert to said party of the first part then the said lots of odd numbers hereby conveyed shall also and for the same cause revert to and become the property of the party of the part and also that the said Lots of odd numbers hereby conveyed shall revert to and become the property of the Mayor & Council of the City of Columbus for and on account of the refusal and failure of the said John H Howard to perform his said contract as is herein set forth.

In testimony whereof the Mayor & Council of the city of Columbus (now in cession) hereunto signed their names with their private seals opposite thereto and have caused the cooperation seal of said City of Columbus to be hereto attached on this day and year aforesaid.

In the presence of	Joseph A Webster	L B Moody Mayor	Wiley Williams
John Bethune	J L Morton	W S Halstead Ward 1	John Buin
Wm H Alston	J M _____	J B Beall Ward 2	
Calvin Straton	Augustus J Abbott	N S Howard Ald	

**"An Act to compensate Josephus Echols and John H. Howard for their expenditures, expenses, professional and other services, concerning the boundary line in dispute, between this State and the State of Alabama; and for other purposes therein named."**<sup>18</sup>

ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, PASSED IN MILLEDGEVILLE, AT A BIENNIAL SESSION, IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY. 1853-4. COMPILED, AND NOTES ADDED, By JOHN RUTHERFORD.

PART II.--PRIVATE AND LOCAL LAWS. RELIEF.\*

See [Illegible Text] Nos. 422, 423, 424. See also "Physicians," & c.

1853 Vol. 1 -- Page: 520

Sequential Number: 538

Law Number: (No. 448.)

Full Title: An Act to compensate Josephus Echols and John H. Howard for their expenditures, expenses, professional and other services, concerning the boundary line in dispute, between this State and the State of Alabama; and for other purposes therein named.

<sup>18</sup> "An Act to compensate Josephus Echols and John H. Howard for their expenditures, expenses, professional and other services, concerning the boundary line in dispute, between this State and the State of Alabama; and for other purposes therein named," *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, Passed in Milledgeville, at a Biennial Session, in November, December, January, and February 1853-4*, February 18, 1854, p. 520-21.



SECTION I. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, That the State's interest in the land on the Chattahoochee River and on the Western bank of said stream above Columbus, and within the limits of the County of Muscogee, commencing three hundred yards below the foot of Lover's Leap, and until [unto?] the Northern boundary of said County of Muscogee, be and [it is?] hereby authorized to be sold by the Governor in such lots and parcels not exceeding one mile along said river, as shall best comport with the interest of the State; which sale shall take place before the Court House in Columbus, [Ga.] Georgia, at any time ordered by the Governor, after the expiration of at least thirty days notice in the public Gazettes of Columbus, to be made by and through the appointment of some fit and proper person, who shall receive for his compensation a reasonable per cent. upon the gross amount of sales; said sales to take place for one-third cash, one-third on [UNK]in[UNK] one year, one-third in two years from the dates of purchases, [UNK]purchases[UNK] under the same rules and regulations otherwise as was adopted by the most recent sale of fractions by the State.

[Sidenote: [Illegible Text]]

[Sidenote: Thirty days notice.]

[Sidenote: Terms of sale, &c.]

SEC. II. And be it further enacted, That the proceeds of said sale shall be first applied by the Governor to the payment of such just and equitable demands as John H. Howard and Josephus Echols, severally, may have against the State of Georgia, for their services and expenses, professional or otherwise, in the recent litigation growing out of the dispute between Alabama and Georgia, ending in a decree of the Supreme Court of the United States in favor of the claims of Georgia as to that boundary, and the balance be deposited in the Treasury: Provided, always, That said grant and land purchased shall not be so used as to interfere with the vested rights of any persons owning lots or lands on the waters edge or banks of said river, without the consent of said land owners: And provided, That the State shall not be liable for the costs or expenses of any future [Illegible Text] that may arise in consequence of such sale or grant; that before any such demand shall be paid, it shall be submitted to, audited and certified by the Hon. Henry L. Benning and James M. Chambers to be correct and reasonable; in the case of the death of either of said auditors, or both, the Governor shall appoint another, or others, to act in his or their place.

[Sidenote: Proceeds to pay Howard and [Illegible Text]]

[Sidenote: [Illegible Text]]

[Sidenote: Future [Illegible Text].]

Approval Date: Approved, February 18th, 1854.

### **"John L. Moore to John C. Sneed"<sup>19</sup>**

State of Georgia  
Richmond County

This Indenture made and entered into this fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty One, between John L. Moore of said county and state of the one part, and John C. Sneed of the same county and state of the other part. Witnesseth. That the said John L. Moore for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him in hand paid by John C. Sneed at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents hath granted, bargained, sold

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<sup>19</sup> "John L. Moore to John C. Sneed, *Muscoogee County Deeds*, Book G, p. 141.



aliened, conveyed and quitted claim: and here by doth grant bargain sell release convey and quick claim, unto said John C. Sneed his hires and assigns, all that lot tract parcel of land, being an island in the Chattahoochee River, containing one acre more or less, and known as number Twenty Eight, opposite fraction number ninety one on the Georgia side of said river, and which said island was granted to said John L. Moore, the fourth day of May Eighteen hundred and forty eight and being more fully described in a copy draft of the Plat of the same which is here to annexed. To have and to hold the said island and all its privileges and appurtenances, unto the said John C. Sneed his hires and assigns forever, against the said John L. Moore and his hires and all claiming under them, but no other person or persons whomsoever.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence  
of John D. Reilley  
Garland A. Sneed

In witness whereof the John L. Moore hath hereunto set  
His hand and seal the year and day first before written.

John L. Moore

Seal

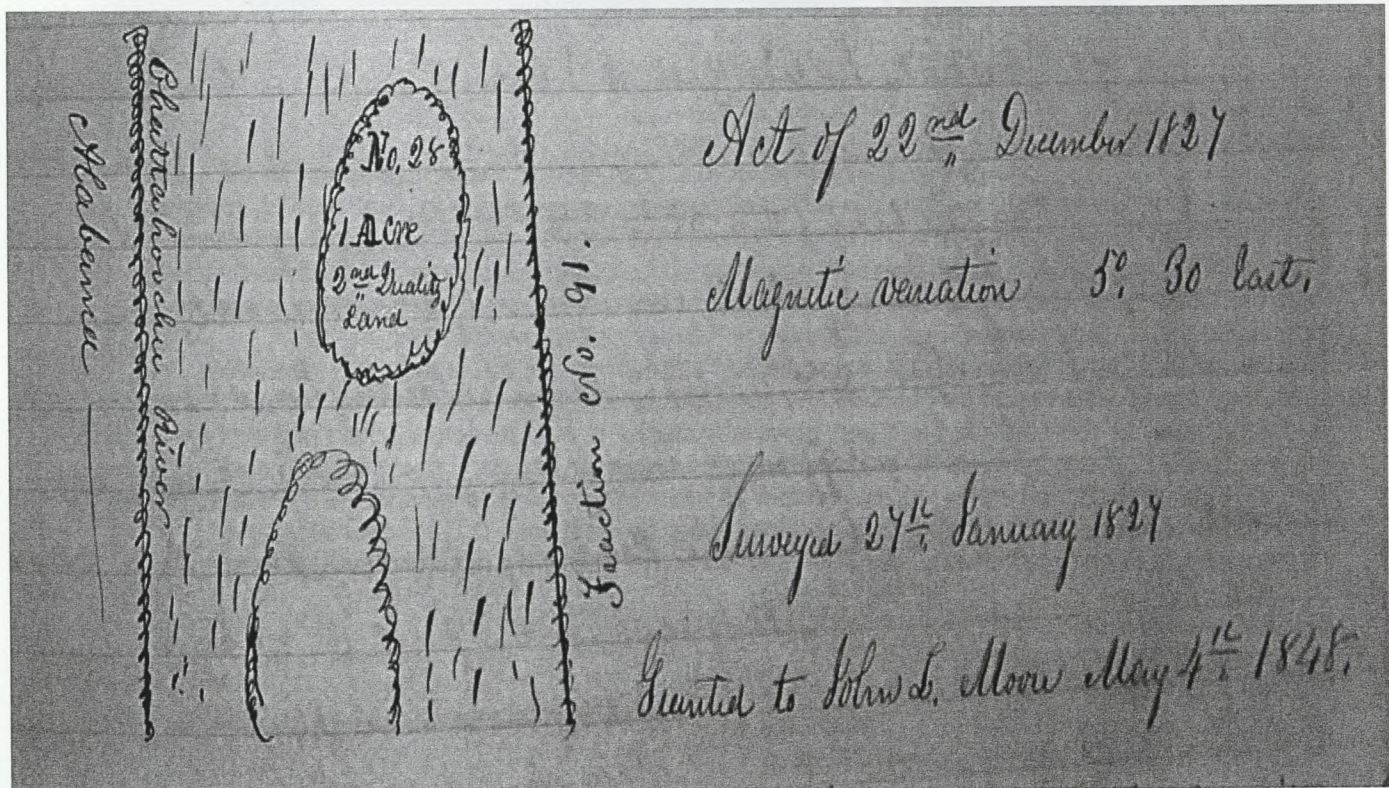


Fig. 3. A digital copy of plat of Island 28 from Muscogee County Deed Book G, p. 141.



**"Witness of title from John L Moore to John C. Sneed"<sup>20</sup>**

State of Georgia  
Richmond County

Personally appeared Garland A. Sneed, one of the subscribing interests to the within deed and being duly sworn says, that he was present and seen John L Moore assign seal and deliver the same as his act and deed for the purposes herein mentioned and that John D. Rielley together with informant subscribed their names as witnesses to the due intention thereof.

Sworn to and ascribed before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1851.

George G. McWherter Notary Public, R. C.

Garland A. Sneed

Recorded this 24<sup>th</sup> June 1854

David J. Barber, Clerk

**"John C. Sneed to Josephus Echols"<sup>21</sup>**

State of Georgia  
Richmond County

Know all men by these presents that John C. Sneed of Augusta in the county and state aforesaid, for the consideration of fifteen hundred dollars to him in hand paid by Josephus Echols of Columbus in the county of Muscogee in said state hath bargained sold released and quit claim, and by these presents doth grant bargain sell and quit claim unto the said Josephus Echols his hires and assigns forever, all and singular undivided moiety or half part of all that lot or parcel of land containing an acre more or less and known as Island number twenty eight, in the Chattahoochee River in the county of Muscogee and state aforesaid, being the same heretofore granted to John L. Moore and by him sold and conveyed to said John C. Sneed, who hath previously sold and conveyed one undivided half part or moiety thereof to said Josephus Echols and now by these presents conveys by way of that claim the other moiety or half part thus investing said Josephus Echols with the whole title and interest in said lot of land island number 28 aforesaid. To have and to hold the said right title claim and interest of the said John C. Sneed his hires and representatives in and to the same, unto him said Josephus Echols his hires and assigns forever.

Signed sealed and delivered  
in presents of John C. Sneed Jr  
Garland A. Sneed Noty Pub

In witness whereof the said John C. Sneed hath hereunto set his hand and seal and affixed his seal, this twenty fourth day of April Eighteen hundred & fifty four.

John C. Sneed seal

Received this 24<sup>th</sup> June 1854

David J. Barber Clerk

<sup>20</sup> Witness of title Garland A. Sneed, *Muscoogee County Deeds*, Book G, p. 141.

<sup>21</sup> John C. Sneed to Josephus Echols, *Muscoogee County Deeds*, Book G, p. 141.



DEC. 20—32—31

## **Administrator's Sale.**

**W**ILL be sold on the first Tuesday in February next, in the town of Columbus, Macongee county, before the Court House door, for the benefit of the heirs and creditors of Sowel Woolfolk, late of this county, deceased:

All that valuable settlement of land, lying on the Chattahoochee river, one mile above the town of Columbus, in the 8th district of said county: consisting of fractions No. 88, 89, 71 and that part of No. 70 which lies above the road leading to Marshall's Ferry—and lots Nos. 72, 69, 53 and 34: containing together fourteen hundred acres, more or less.

On the above settlement, is a dwelling house, kitchen, stables, &c. with about two hundred acres cleared land, enclosed with good fences and in good repair.

One twenty acre lot, No. 46, on the Reserve, lying at the fork of the Marshal Ferry and Hamilton roads.

Lots No 19 and 20, on Front and Bay streets, in the town of Columbus, with their improvements: consisting of a comfortable two story dwelling house, two store houses and a warehouse, with scales and weights.

Two Negroes—Simon, a rough Carpenter, and Aaron. The terms of sale will be one half cash and the balance on the first of January 1834.

On the same day, will be sold at the Court house door in Harris county, the cluster of islands, in the Chattahoochee river, in the 20th district of said county, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14: containing together 232 acres more or less, and fraction No. 396 in the same district: containing two and a tenth acres. Terms one third cash and the balance on the first day of January, 1834.

**JAMES WADSWORTH,**

*Administrator with the Will annexed.*

Nov. 24—28—31

Columbus Enquirer Jan 19 1833 page 4

Fig. 4. "Administrator's Sale," *Columbus Enquirer*, January 19, 1833, p. 4.



# Columbus Enquirer Oct 23 1839

## Notice.

**P**URSUANT to an Act of the General Assembly of Georgia, passed the twenty ninth day of December, 1838, will be sold in the City of Columbus, on the first Tuesday in November next, the following ~~ISLANDS~~, situate in Chattahoochee River opposite 8th District of Muscogee co. No. 1, containing 54 9-10 Acres, 2d quality, about a mile above Stewart & Fontaine's Factory, 30 acres cleared land. Number 2, containing 5 2-10 acres, 2d quality, nearly opposite No. 1, about 3 acres cleared land. Number 3, containing 16 acres 2d quality, below and nearly opposite the above named Factory.— This Island has a beautiful Creek or Branch of the River, running the whole length of the Island, which is about a quarter of a mile in length, with sufficient water and fall almost for any Machinery in the dryest season. These Islands seldom if ever overflow. They are about 3 or 4 miles above Columbus.

JOHN BETHUNE, Comm'r.

July 17

25 11

The Columbus and Milledgeville papers will publish the above.

Fig. 5. "Notice," *Columbus Enquirer*, October 23, 1839, p. 1.



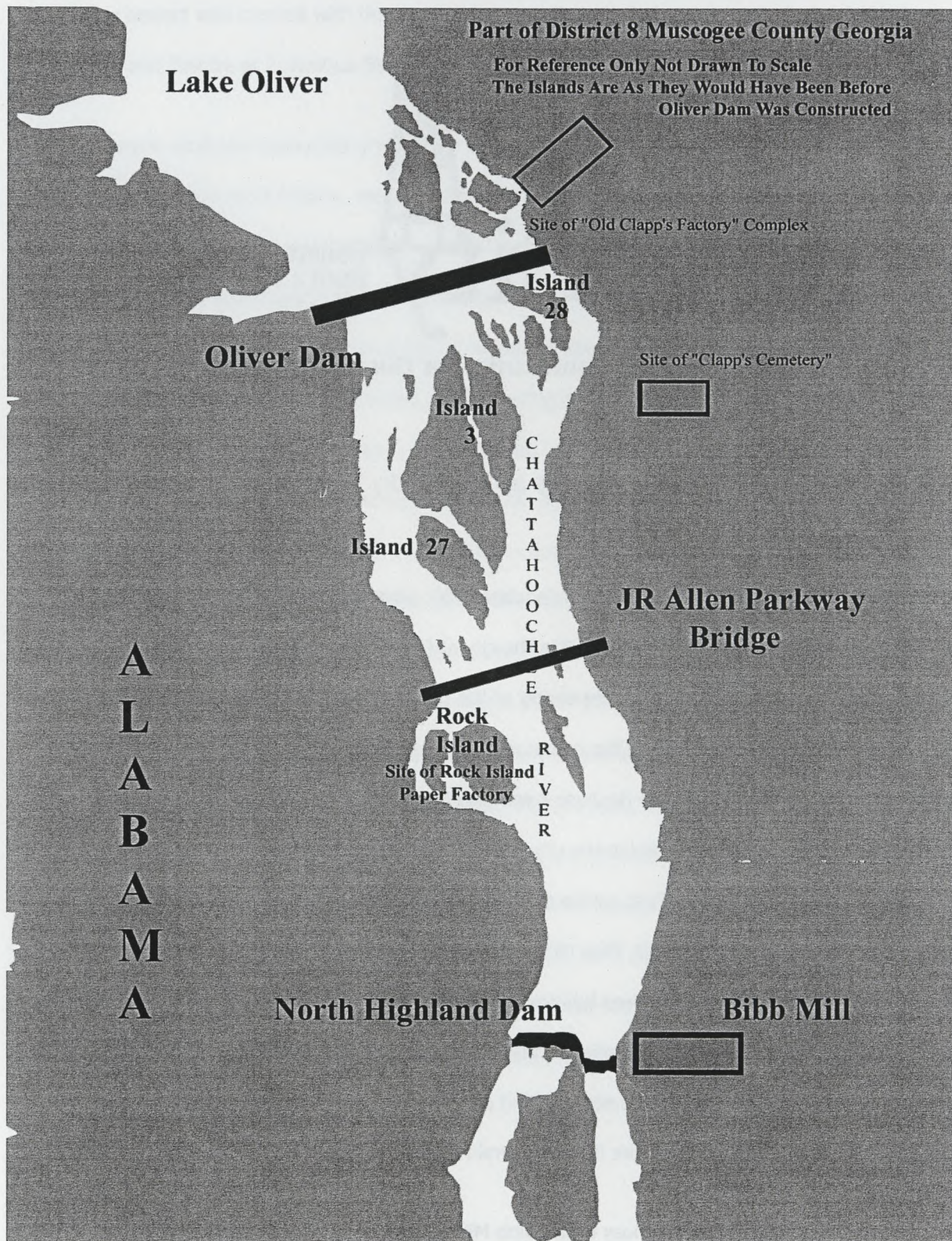


Fig. 6. "Map of Islands," by Jesse Williams





## **Interpreting a Community for the Community**

by

Dr. Amanda Rees and Dr. Becky Becker

It was a cool night on the last day of October 2008, when a fire that had raged for several days destroyed most of the massive Bibb Mill in the city of Columbus, Georgia. Located in west central Georgia, the Bibb Mill had been the center of the Bibb City community for over one hundred years. Indeed, it was the very reason the community had been founded. Bibb City is a historically significant community and landscape because it reminds us of the central role of the cotton mill industry in the South, in Georgia, and in the city of Columbus during the twentieth century. Two elements make Bibb City unique. First, unlike most other mill companies in the South that turned away from paternalistic management, Bibb Mill kept its fatherly eye on this segregated company town. Second, with its over two hundred buildings, Bibb City captures two very distinct methods of company town design. The early residential section offers a very dense, unvarying urban, industrial feel, while the new homes (built in the early 1920s) provide more varied architecture situated in a rural landscape that produced the more isolated, rural feel of the countryside.

In response to the dramatic loss of the Bibb Mill, we decided that we needed to commemorate that loss and celebrate this unusual blue-collar community, while at the same time supporting efforts to establish Bibb City as a federally identified Historic District. This multi-



disciplinary project was created with the work of forty students in four concurrent classes in history, geography, and theatre at Columbus State University during the May semester of 2009.

Theatre students conducted oral history interviews with past and present community members, studied the mill's history, and examined works from the Federal Theatre Project and oral history performers like Anna Deavere Smith. Next, they quilted together the oral histories they had collected to create a performance about the community and its significance to multiple generations. History and geography students explored the art of interpreting historical communities, visited the Columbus Museum to learn more about the art of creating an exhibition, and, using previously created oral histories and archival images, wrote, edited, and produced a ten-panel exhibition that told the story of the community's hundred year history. The hour-long performance (which was video-taped) and the history exhibit were presented in two different locations in Bibb City: at the Opening and Picking Room of Bibb Mill (one of the few mill buildings left intact) and at the Comer Auditorium. Four additional performances were given at the Studio Theatre on the Park on Columbus State University's RiverPark Campus. Students also led five "in character" walking tours of Bibb City for over eighty participants. They created a printable self-guided walking tour of the community, an extensive downloadable audio tour, and a web-site, which includes the play script, the play video, the images and text of the exhibit, a children's exhibit guide, and other educational materials. While eighty people joined in the "in character" walking tours of the community, three hundred people came to see the play and exhibition over three weekends in June 2009. Students then published their research, historical images, the play, text from the exhibit and other educational materials at a web-site hosted by the CSU Archives: [http://archives.colstate.edu/digital\\_collections/bibb\\_city.php](http://archives.colstate.edu/digital_collections/bibb_city.php).



## **Welcome to Bibb City: A Self-Guided Walking Tour**

by

Mindy Gillow

Located on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, Bibb City is a mill village located in Columbus, Georgia. Both the mill and its village opened its doors for business in 1902. Two things make Bibb City unique. First, long after other mill proprietors in the South had abandoned such practices, the management of Bibb Mill kept a paternalistic eye on the village for sixty years. The city remained a separate municipality completely surrounded by the city of Columbus for over ninety years (the town dissolved in 2000). The second unique feature is the design of the community itself. There were two phases of development in Bibb City – what residents used to call the Old Village and the New Village. As the map reveals, the road layout in the northern part of Bibb City differs from the layout in the southern half of the community. The Old Village is located around the mill in the southern section of Bibb City. Old Village roads are laid out on a grid, and the houses sit side-by-side, very close to one another. In contrast, northern Bibb City roads are curved and the homes are laid out along those curves. Streets loop back into each other and do not connect with the major Columbus streets. Little has changed in the community's housing or its layout in eighty years. As we explore Bibb City, we will see that there are other differences between the Old and New villages.

To begin, start at the Rivermill Event Center located at 3715 1st Avenue in Columbus. The tour should take approximately thirty minutes and is fairly easy to navigate, with only a few small hills and a small flight of stairs.

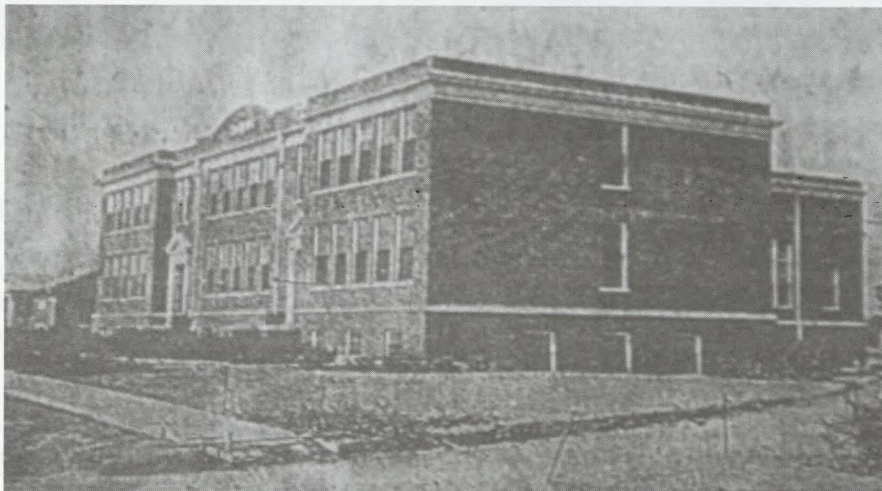




**Fig. 1. Examples of Mill housing**

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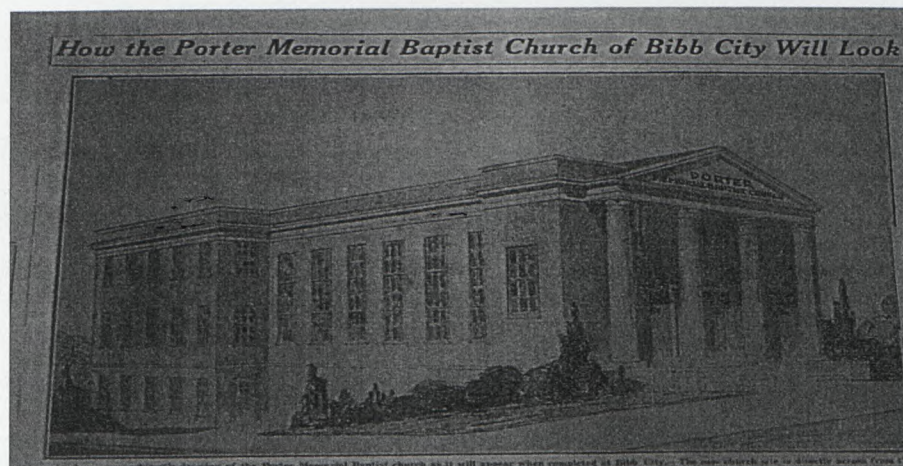
- A. Let's begin at the corner of Porter and Hansen. From here, you can see a clear view of the water tower towards the West (#2 on the map's points of interest, or POI), as well as a great example of the newer housing. These four-room houses were used to board workers. Two families lived in each house as evidenced by the two front doors. Workers and families took great pride in their lives in Bibb City and strove to keep the village nice. The mill owners sponsored clean up days to keep the town tidy and kept a critical eye on residents' gardens.



**Fig. 2. Bibb City Elementary School**

Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives





**Fig. 3. Porter Memorial Baptist Church**

Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives

- B. As you continue north on Hansen Avenue, at the corner where you intersect 40<sup>th</sup> Street, you find your next stop. Looking north, you can see the Bibb City Elementary School (Figure 2 & POI # 6). The school was the center of community life for years, until the construction of the auditorium. To your left, you can see the Porter Baptist Church (Figure 3 & POI # 5). Unlike most mill towns, Bibb did not force religion on its workers. However, it was greatly encouraged.



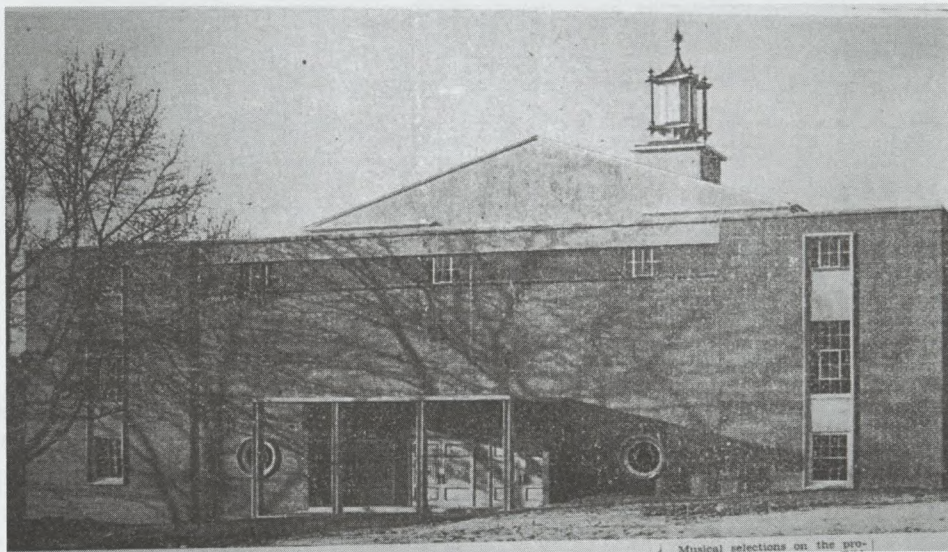
**Fig. 4. Bibb City community swimming pool**

Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives

- C. From Hansen Avenue, turn left and proceed down 40<sup>th</sup> street. Near the point where Park Avenue and 40<sup>th</sup> Street meet, you will find the site of both the community pool (Figure 4) and the former community center, which also functioned as the town's clinic (POI # 7). You can also look south down Park Avenue for a view of the ten-room boarding houses, which were part of the Old Village's housing for both families and single boarders. Originally there were twenty-four of these houses, but today many have been destroyed.



- D. Continue down 40<sup>th</sup> Street (or Poplar Street). The site of the former Boy Scout Hut (POI # 8) is just ahead on the left, across from the Bibb Triangle. The original building was destroyed by a storm in 1953, but was rebuilt by April 1954. The house that you see now was built in 2008. Beyond the house, there is a nice view of the Chattahoochee River.
- E. Go right on Poplar Street, making your way past the Bibb Triangle (which will be on your left). As you proceed down Poplar Street, stop to check out Hemlock Drive Park (POI #10) to the North, or on your left. From here, you have a great overview of the park. Unlike the older village, the newer village designs included parks and more rural housing. If you look north up Hemlock Drive, there is much more green space, with wide grass medians between the street and the sidewalk.



**Fig. 5. Comer Auditorium**

Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives

- F. As you approach the corner of 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Hemlock Drive, you will see the Comer Auditorium (Figure 5 & POI # 9). It was built in July 1941 as a community center. Community basketball tournaments were often held in the Comer. Look up and you will notice a cupola on top of this building, distinguishing it from the surrounding community. *Note: Between this point and the final point, you will encounter a small flight of stairs.*
- G. Continuing on Hemlock Drive, you will notice the housing is closer together. This is considered part of the Old Village. Bibb village residents took pride in keeping their homes clean and properly maintained.





**Fig. 6. Aerial View of Bibb City**

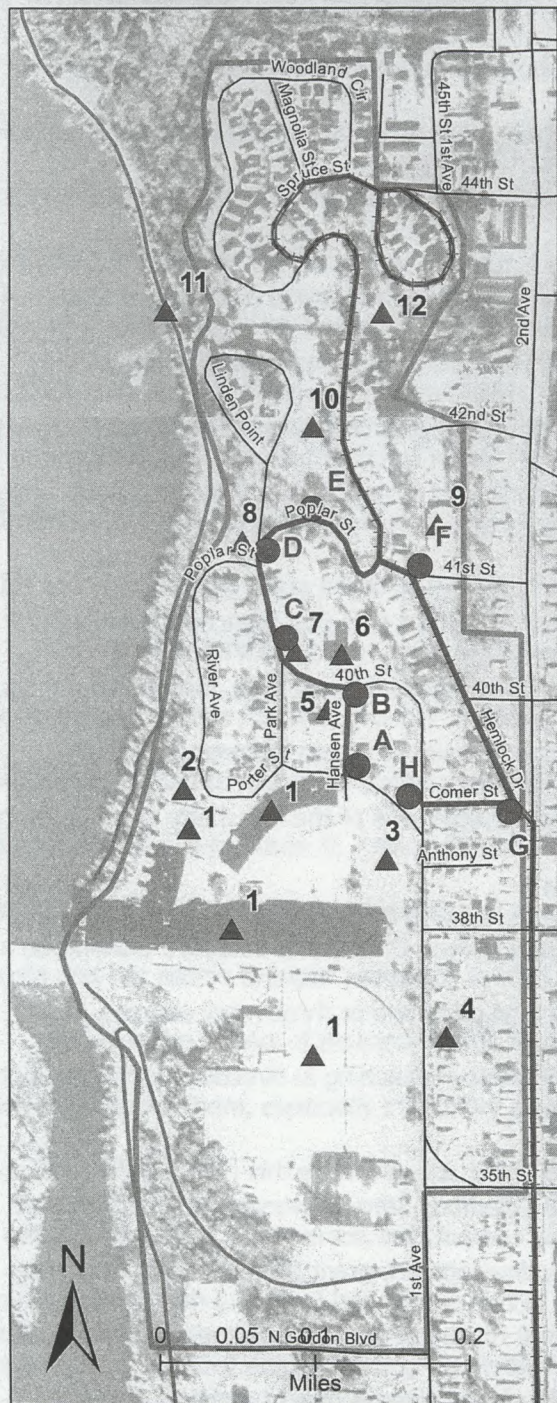
Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives

- H. Our final stop on the tour is at the end of Comer Street, which includes a view of the former Bibb Mill (Figure 6 & POI #3). Built in 1902, the mill stretched over 1000-feet long. All the memories that developed in its shadow over the last century resurfaced in a fire in October 2008. Hundreds of people came to watch the mill they had worked in their entire lives burn to the ground. The only part of the long building that remains is the façade – a reminder of the importance of cotton mill life in Bibb City.

(Unless noted, the above images were supplied by the Columbus State University Archives. For the complete story of *Collected Lives from a Mill Town*, please visit: [http://archives.colstate.edu/digital\\_collections/bibb\\_city.php](http://archives.colstate.edu/digital_collections/bibb_city.php))

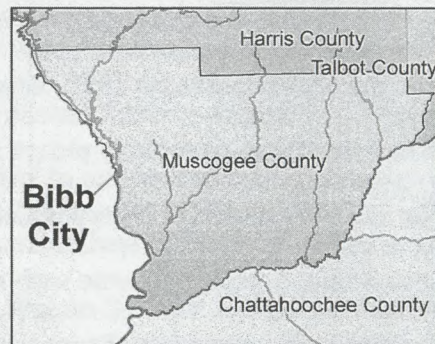


# Bibb City, GA



## Points of Interest

1. Bibb Mill Buildings
2. Water Tower
3. Bibb City Hotel
4. Supervisors' Row
5. Baptist Church
6. Elementary School
7. Swimming Pool
8. Boy Scout Hut
9. Comer Auditorium
10. Hemlock Drive Park
11. Riverwalk Bridge
12. Ed Vance Park



## Legend

- Tour Points
- Tour Route
- ▲ Points of Interest
- North Highlands RR Trolley
- Riverwalk
- Streets
- Bibb City

Map by Rushtone Cartography, <http://rushtone.com/>

**Fig. 7. Map of Bibb City**

Courtesy of Rushtone Cartography



## **Sleuthing through Columbus History**

by

Dr. Virginia E. Causey

I have the best job in the world this semester. I have been awarded a sabbatical from Columbus State University to research and write a book on Columbus – an analytical history that begins with the founding of the town in 1827 and brings Columbus history up to the present. It will take much longer than just these few months to complete this project, but having the time to really focus on this one task has been wonderful.

The last attempt at a comprehensive history of Columbus was Etta Blanchard Worsley's *Columbus on the Chattahoochee* in 1951. Since then, John Lupold, Clason Kyle, Joseph Mahan, and a few others have published celebratory picture books on Columbus, but no historian has ever published an academic analytical history of Columbus, Georgia, one of the few major cities in Georgia for which this is true. I propose to write such a history.

As anyone who researches history or genealogy knows, I feel like a detective working on a cold case. One source may be a dead end, but often it leads to two or three more sources, which lead to two or three more, and soon you have a bibliography branching in directions that could not have been predicted at the outset.

I'm doing much of my work in the wonderful Columbus State University Archives' treasure trove of Columbus history. But, funded with a faculty development grant from CSU, I'm also going farther afield. The Georgia Department of Archives and History in Morrow holds many sources related to Columbus, and I'll spend four or five days there. Much the same is true of archives at the University of Georgia. Other archival collections may not be so obviously related to Columbus. I learned, for example, that in 1864 Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, author of *Georgia Scenes* and president of Emory at Oxford, fled Sherman's advance and landed in Columbus for a few months. He



apparently was here at the time of the Battle of Columbus. Longstreet's papers are at Emory and I hope to find letters describing his experiences in Columbus in 1864 and 1865.

I spent a few days in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina and in the Special Collections Library at Duke. Each has a handful of manuscript collections related to Columbus history, such as Farish Carter's papers at UNC, which focus on his largely unsuccessful Coweta Falls Manufacturing Company. At Duke, I examined the papers of Louis Hamburger, partner of George Parker Swift in Muscogee Mills and other ventures. Some funny episodes related to these collections may not find their way into the book. For example, Louis Hamburger was in New York on business in 1867 and reported to his wife that "trade here is very brisk, the whole City is full of Southerners" (sort of carpetbaggers in reverse, I guess). A woman friend of the family wanted him to get his hair dyed before going home (in 1867!), "but I told her I never would do it."

In November, I'll be at the Library of Congress probing a question I've pondered for years: Why did Helen Augusta Howard, founder of the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association, drop out of the movement in 1895 after devoting five years of her life to it? In an effort to solve that mystery, I'll read correspondence in Susan B. Anthony's and Anna Howard Shaw's papers, as well as sources related to the 1895 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association meeting, which Augusta and her sisters brought to Atlanta in 1895.

An addictive aspect of research is that the actors who people Columbus' history come alive as I learn more about them, especially in primary sources, such as letters and diaries that flesh them out as real humans with virtues and faults. Some characters become more (or less) admirable to me as I get to know them. One person in Columbus history that I like less now than when I began, for example, is Randolph L. Mott. I had always sort of admired Mott. Local lore held him to be a staunch Unionist during the Civil War. Following the Battle of Columbus, he allegedly told Federal General James Wilson that his residence was the only location in Columbus that had never seceded, and for the duration of the war he flew the American flag from the cupola of his house (now part of the TSYS campus on the Riverwalk).



Mott may have been a Unionist at heart, but he was hardly one in his actions. He never resisted the war, and his gristmills supplied Confederate troops. Wilson, who captured the city in 1865 and established his headquarters in Mott's house, reported that the flag was inside "the dome" of the house, not flown from the cupola where locals would have seen it. Mott was a Republican politician in the postwar years, but supported the moderate agenda, often joining conservative Georgia Democrats to strip hard-won freedoms from African Americans.

Perhaps the most damning evidence about Mott was his partnership with the infamous Charles Augustus Lafayette Lamar of Savannah, who illegally imported slaves from Angola in 1858 aboard the *Wanderer*. Congress had outlawed the importation of slaves in 1808, but in 1858 the secessionist Lamar decided the South should no longer be governed by U.S. law, so he raised funds from Mott and other partners to bring 487 captive Africans illegally into Georgia. Legend has it that one of those *Wanderer* slaves was at Mott's home while James Wilson stayed there, and that Mott even tried to give the slave to Wilson (who refused).

Often, however, I have found myself admiring the people I research and wishing I could time-travel to meet them. Four are George W. Ashburn, Primus King, Augusta Howard, and Theo J. McGee. Ashburn may seem a strange choice. He has been vilified in many histories of Columbus as a white Republican "scalawag" responsible for corrupt "negro domination" during Reconstruction, a former overseer who was cruel to slaves, and "the lowest sort of white man" who deserted his wife and took up with negro prostitutes. A mob of about thirty masked white men assassinated him in 1868.

Actually, Ashburn was a committed Unionist who rejected the rule of the planter elite and during the war fought with the northern army to end the "slaveocracy." No doubt he was ambitious and probably unscrupulous, but that was typical of American politicians in the 1860s. In the sources of the day, he comes alive as an incredibly charismatic and powerful leader. The Democratic editor of the *Columbus Sun* expressed his disgust for Ashburn by nicknaming him "Stinke," but also feared and grudgingly admired him, writing in November 1867: "[Ashburn] is today the ablest, most adroit and influential man, black or white, in the radical ranks in Georgia. Resolute in purpose, unscrupulous



as to means...To those who doubt the ability of 'Stinke'...We would say that he has ruled the niggers and white men of his party in this section alike with a rod of iron...We have seen him subdue a rebellion in the camp. It was done with an ease and dispatch that would not have disgraced the Emperor of the French." The mob that killed Ashburn did so because he loudly and persistently advocated political rights for African Americans, an unpardonable sin to most southern whites in his time. Ashburn's lynching ushered in a reign of terror against black people that lasted nearly a century, snuffing out their nascent rights earned under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

Primus King, a great unsung hero in Georgia history, helped restore those rights. He accomplished more on a practical level to guarantee black Georgians equal political rights than Martin Luther King, Jr., yet few in Georgia have ever heard of him. After Democrats regained control of state and local government in the 1870s, Georgia essentially became a one-party state. Because there was no viable Republican Party, the only election that mattered was the Democratic primary. One of the strategies to block African American political power was to deny them participation in the Democratic primary. In the early twentieth century, the Democrats claimed they were a private organization and thus could limit voting in their primary to their members—who were all white men.

In the 1940s, NAACP chapters across the South began to challenge the white primary. In early 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Smith v. Allright* found Texas' white primary to be unconstitutional. There had been talk in the Columbus NAACP since the *Smith* ruling about testing Georgia's primary law, but as King recalled in an oral history interview in the CSU archives, "All the rest of these higher up men—they talked about [testing the white primary]. They talked about it. But, in other words, nobody put a bell around the cat's neck. The rats talked about it, but...I told 'em, I said, 'I will.'" On July 4, 1944, King, a barber and pastor, walked into the old Muscogee County courthouse and attempted to vote in the white primary. A police detective grabbed him and asked, "What in the hell are you doin,' nigger?" When King said he intended to vote, the policeman told him, "Ain't no niggers voting today."

King left the courthouse and walked three blocks to a lawyer's office to initiate a suit against the Democratic Executive Committee of Muscogee County, chaired by Joseph E. Chapman. When



word got out, King received many death threats. In 1979, he recalled one in particular: "An old cracker called and said: 'Are you the nigger that caused so much trouble about this voting around here in the white primary?' I replied: 'I'm not the nigger, sir, but I'm Primus King.' Then the old cracker replied: 'You must want to be put in the river.' And I said: 'Well, they've put so many Negroes in the river for nothing; I'm willin' to go in there for somethin'!' The old cracker hung up."

King's suit claimed the Democratic Executive Committee of Muscogee County had denied him the right to vote solely on the basis of race. He sought \$5000 in damages. Ultimately, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld King's claim and on April 1, 1946, the Supreme Court declined to review it. *King v. Chapman* declared the Georgia white primary unconstitutional. The court awarded King \$100 in damages and 7% per annum interest until he collected his settlement from the Muscogee Democratic Committee. King finally collected his award with interest accrued in 1977.

What courage it took for this humble man to walk alone into the courthouse on July 4, 1944! King's efforts had immediate effect. By the end of 1946, the NAACP had forty branches and 13,000 members in Georgia. In a period of fifty-one days, black voter registration went from 3,000 to 21,000. It soared from 3% of voters in 1940 to 18.8%—135,000 voters—by 1947.

Augusta Howard was another figure in Columbus history with the courage of her convictions. We remember Augusta for founding the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association in 1890 – the first organization in the state dedicated to securing the franchise for women. But, as mentioned earlier, many mysteries surround Augusta. Why did she become involved in what was considered in 1890 to be a radical and "unfeminine" cause? Why, after giving her life to the movement for five years and even hosting the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention in Atlanta in 1895, did Augusta abruptly disappear from the suffrage fight? And why does her headstone in Linwood Cemetery read: "MARTYRED!"?

Very little in Augusta's background could have pointed to her eventual role as suffragist. Her family was one of Columbus' oldest and finest. In the 1830s, her ancestor John Howard helped construct the first dam across the Chattahoochee, opened the city's first textile mill, and built the first railroad in Columbus. Her great-aunt was Mary Howard Jones, wife of Seaborn Jones, a wealthy



planter and entrepreneur who built the beautiful mansion St. Elmo. Her first cousins were Augusta Jane Evans, author of the popular novel of the same name, and Mary Howard Benning, wife of General Henry L. Benning.

Augusta was the youngest of eleven children, and though among the Columbus elite in lineage, hard times befell them after Augusta's birth. Her father died when she was a small child, and the family income fell dramatically. This decline in family fortunes apparently led to her interest in feminism. Her sister Miriam Howard DuBose explained years later: "Urgent need of serious minded women in world affairs was forced upon Miss Howard's attention through no woman suffrage paper or literature, whatsoever. She had seen none. Her mother's yearly inescapable taxes without representation compelled her realization of gross injustices done hundreds of thousands of women assisting in supporting a government, politically classing them with MINORS, LUNATICS, TRAITORS, and FELONS."

Augusta decided in 1890 at age twenty-five to form a society to give women a political voice. The first members were Augusta, her mother, and her four older sisters. The Howard's affiliated their society with the leading suffrage organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), led by Susan B. Anthony. But in the first five years, only about a dozen others from around Georgia joined the society. Columbus certainly did not welcome this suffrage association. Suffragists were generally considered "unnatural" women by both male and female. Men ridiculed the notion of equal rights for women, and women maintained they had all the rights they wanted. Augusta wrote in 1893 that the "opposition at Columbus...[was] of the most malignant and underhand sort, scrupling not at insult, lying, and slander, in hope of intimidating the few advocates of equal rights." Even Augusta's brother was against them. He pressured the *Columbus Enquirer* into refusing to publish Augusta's writings on suffrage.

Augusta's greatest accomplishment as president of the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association was bringing the annual convention of the National American Suffrage Association to Atlanta in 1895. Augusta and her sisters extended the invitation at the 1894 convention in Washington. Susan B.



Anthony and some delegates wanted to keep the convention in Washington to put pressure on Congress; there was also support for Cincinnati and Detroit. But Augusta won the day by declaring:

You might hold a thousand conventions in Kansas or other places above Mason and Dixon's line and you will never hear anything about it in the South. The Georgia papers and the far Southern papers still insist that women do not want the ballot. Until you hold a convention in the South and prove to them that this is not so, they will keep saying it. In Atlanta...there can be no doubt that the Grand Opera House...could be secured and it could be packed from ceiling to pit. While a great many of them would come to laugh, many of them would go away with NAWSA membership tickets in their pockets...I believe that an effort would be made by Atlanta and the prominent business men, as well as the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association, to make the convention a successful one. While Atlanta is not in sympathy with the movement, she is always ready to help Atlanta.

The convention voted to meet in Atlanta the following year. Immediately after the convention, Susan B. Anthony, her sister Mary, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, and other officers of the NAWSA visited the Howard sisters at Sherwood Hall for a few days. (I love to imagine Susan B. Anthony in Columbus.)

Here is where the mystery of Augusta deepens. After the convention, Augusta resigned from the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association and never again played an active role in the movement. Why, after her extremely visible and vocal activism, did she disappear from the fray? She was only thirty years old — what did she do with herself for the rest of her life? Why does her tombstone say she was "martyred"? I hope to help answer some of these questions.

Also among Columbus' progressive reformers is Theo J. McGee. Born in Butler at the turn of the century, he moved to Columbus to practice law in 1922. A comfortable member of the white elite, McGee over time grew in a different direction from most of his peers. He initially accepted the prevalent view that whites were superior, and that the Negro should be kept in his place. But as an adult, he listened to ministers who spoke of brotherhood and equality, and he came to see fair and equitable treatment of all humans a Christian principle by which to live.

The strongest expression of his beliefs was his lifelong commitment to providing decent housing for Columbus' poor. The Family Welfare Bureau was the city's main private relief agency in the early twentieth century, and McGee became its director in 1923. That served as a springboard for his chairmanship of the Columbus Housing Authority (CHA) from 1938 until his retirement in 1971, an agency dedicated to upgrading substandard housing for the poor. Under his leadership, the CHA built the Peabody and Booker T. Washington developments, the first public housing in Columbus.



Cleaning up "The Bottoms" was a major priority in the 1940s. The Bottoms was a historic black neighborhood on low ground along Weracoba Creek below Wynn's Hill. Landless African Americans squatted there after the Civil War, and it soon grew into a vibrant neighborhood. But it was full of shoddy shotgun houses that lacked electricity, running water, or indoor bathrooms. Residents often worked as domestic servants in the big houses in the prestigious Overlook neighborhood just up the hill. The CHA built Warren Williams Homes there as public housing, but most of The Bottoms was subdivided and sold to private developers. McGee deemed much of the resultant housing unsightly. He lamented, "Though some considerable progress has been made, the majority of the public is insensitive to the ugliness and slovenliness that still widely prevails." In the 1960s, he believed Lady Bird Johnson's slogan "Keep America Beautiful" should have been "Make America Beautiful."

McGee was labeled a "socialist" and a "communist," but such slurs did not deter him. In fact, he delighted in poking his critics in the eye. In the conformist 1950s, many Columbus business leaders railed against government "socialized housing." McGee vigorously defended public housing projects that "were constructed to take the place of several hundred decaying little shacks." "I suppose if these public housing projects are called 'social housing,'" he maintained, "we could with equal propriety describe the eliminated shacks as 'capitalistic housing.'"

Unwilling to compromise, McGee declared, "Slum areas ought to be cleared—all of them. Such housing conditions constitute one of the strangest paradoxes in our American way of life. We are always justly boasting of our American way—our industrial genius, our high income, and incomparable freedom—yet while we brag about the number of our automobiles, telephones, radios, and bath tubs—all of our gadgets, fully one-third of our urban populations are compelled to live in houses unsuited for habitation. These depressed housing areas, too, it must be noted, are part of our American way of life—withal a very shameful part." In an incredibly progressive statement for a white elite Columbusite in the 1950s, McGee argued, "In Columbus the Bottoms was as much a part of the city as Overlook." By the 1970s, McGee had become discouraged with the rate of progress in



Columbus, but he was an idealist. He believed he could change the world. You have to admire him for that.

Columbus has a fascinating history filled with many colorful characters. I am having a wonderful time trying to solve some of the mysteries and put it all together in a coherent narrative. I am asking for any help *Muscogiana* readers can provide. If you have untold family stories, letters, journals, photographs, or family memorabilia to share, please telephone me at 706-327-5932 (home) or send an email to [causey\\_virginia@colstate.edu](mailto:causey_virginia@colstate.edu).



## Local History Corner: Dr. John Lupold

by

Gary S. Sprayberry

Anyone who has ever delved into the history of Columbus, Georgia, and/or the Chattahoochee Valley is familiar with the work of Dr. John Lupold. He has researched and written about this region for more than three decades, producing countless articles and monographs on the Valley's history, people and institutions. In truth, it would be next to impossible to explore the history of Columbus without encountering or utilizing Lupold's work. He has emerged as one of the principal caretakers of the community's past and, as we will see, has contributed mightily to the field of local history.

Dr. Lupold, a native of South Carolina, first arrived in Columbus in 1970 after accepting a teaching post in the history department at Columbus College (later Columbus State University). He had just completed his doctoral studies at the University of South Carolina. He joined a rather



**Fig. 1. Dr. John Lupold, 1970**

Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives



large history department that included Hugh I. Rodgers, John "Jack" Myers, Billy McGee, James Dwyer, Richard Amundson, and Donald Cope. Lupold taught courses on American, southern, and Georgia history, and later developed classes in local history, genealogy, and historical preservation. In 1975, he and another history professor, Richard Hanks, created the Lower Chattahoochee Valley Historical Archives in the Simon Schwob Library at Columbus College. The two were only able to establish and secure the archives after some skillful politicking at the college and by ingratiating themselves with Loretto Chappell, a longtime librarian in Columbus and daughter to former mayor L.H. Chappell. According to Lupold, she was "*the Librarian*" in the city and "well tied-in" to the local power structure. She provided some crucial early support to the venture. According to the Archives web-site, "without the cooperation of Miss Chappell, the Columbus College Archives would not have been established. Her endorsements played a significant role in establishing the Columbus College Archives and in acquiring its initial and many of the subsequent collections."<sup>1</sup> She donated her grandfather's personal and family library to the Archives – a massive collection that had been passed down through the Chappell family for generations. These volumes, known as the A.H. Chappell Collection, formed the nucleus of the new Archives and brought some much-needed attention to the facility and its young architects. In fact, the *Columbus Ledger* ran a front-page story about Chappell's generous donation, thus legitimizing the Archives in the eyes of both the public and a skeptical school administration. Since its inception, the CSU Archives has evolved into one of the most important repositories of Columbus and Chattahoochee Valley history and genealogy.

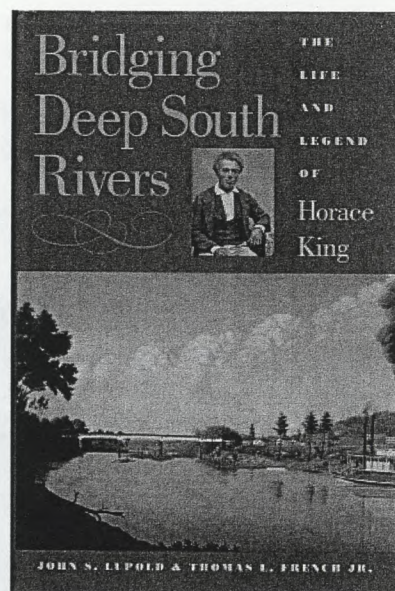
From the very beginning, Dr. Lupold held a deep interest in local and regional history. As he readily admits, he is driven by an abiding curiosity to uncover everything he can about the community in which he lives. "I like to know the terrain, the environment, what's going on, [everything]," he says. Such curiosity inspired Lupold to research various aspects of Columbus' past, including the textile industry, local architecture, different civic institutions, and many of the colorful figures who have called the Chattahoochee Valley home. His work has been published in the

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<sup>1</sup>For additional information on Loretto Chappell, go to: <http://archives.colstate.edu/findingaids/mc29.php>.



*Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, *Columbus and the Valley Magazine*, the *Atlanta Historical Journal*, the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, the *Dictionary of Georgia Biography*, the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, and the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. In 1978, Dr. Lupold penned a sweeping history of Columbus entitled *Columbus, Georgia, 1828-1978* to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the city. The book stands alongside histories by Clason Kyle, Joseph Mahan, and Nancy Telfair, as one of the seminal works on Columbus. Perhaps his most enduring contribution to genealogy and local history came with the publication of a two-volume work entitled *Chattahoochee Valley Sources and Resources: An Annotated Bibliography* in 1988 and 1993, respectively. Countless scholars, family historians, and journalists have utilized these massive tomes in their research. If Dr. Lupold had written nothing else, his reputation as a local historian would have been secured with these contributions. Others have agreed. In 1988, Lupold received the Governor's Award in the Humanities for his work in local and regional history.



**Fig. 2. *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King* (2004)**

Dr. Lupold's crowning achievement was the publication of *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King* in 2004, which he co-authored with Thomas French Jr. The book, hailed as "an impressive and careful piece of research," chronicles the life of famed bridge-builder,



ex-slave, politician, and Chattahoochee Valley legend Horace King. As Lupold writes, the purpose of the book was three-fold: "to document King's professional career," "to separate the facts from the fiction in the Horace King lore," and "to chronicle his life as a slave and freedman." Lupold and French achieve all three in admirable fashion, crafting a history that is both informative and a pleasure to read. The most intriguing sections of the book deal with the various legends and myths that have developed around the figure of Horace King. Neo-Confederate groups, for example, have labeled King a "black Confederate" because of the contract work he did for the Confederate government. Others have pointed to King's engineering and architectural skills as evidence of the nurturing and benevolent nature of slavery. Lupold dismisses such claims as "absurd" and spends large chunks of the book dispelling them. As with all of his work, Lupold skillfully employs the primary sources relating to King to extract fact from faction and reality from myth. What emerges is a complicated tale of a decidedly complicated man.



**Fig. 3. John Lupold, 1997, shortly after accepting the award for Educator of the Year at Columbus State University**

Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives



In 2004, the same year that *Bridging Deep South Rivers* appeared, Dr. Lupold retired from Columbus State University after thirty-four years of service to the institution. During his tenure at CSU, he served as chair of the History Department (1998-2004), sat on various civic boards and university committees, and received numerous awards and plaudits, including the Faculty Service Award in 1992 and the Educator of the Year Award in 1997. Today, Lupold continues to research, write, and give public lectures on the history of Columbus and the surrounding region.

#### **Selected Works of Dr. John Lupold:**

1. With Thomas L. French Jr., *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2004)
2. *Columbus, Georgia, 1828-1978* (Columbus, GA: Columbus Sesquicentennial, Inc., 1978)
3. *Chattahoochee Valley Sources and Resources: An Annotated Bibliography, Vol. 1: The Alabama Counties* (Eufaula, AL: Historic Chattahoochee Commission, 1988)
4. *Chattahoochee Valley Sources and Resources: An Annotated Bibliography, Vol. 2: The Georgia Counties* (Eufaula, AL: Historic Chattahoochee Commission, 1993)
5. "From Physician to Physicist: The Scientific Career of John LeConte, 1818-1891 (Ph.D. Diss., University of South Carolina, 1970)
6. *Heritage Park: A Celebration of the Industrial Heritage of Columbus, Georgia* (Columbus, GA: Historic Columbus Foundation, 1999)



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## Purpose

The Muscogee Genealogical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the Columbus/Original Muscogee County area and its people, as well as the education of individuals in the techniques of discovering their own heritage.

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Muscogee County Court House  
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Tote bag: Made of canvas, measuring 15" by 16", with a genealogical quip and the name of the Society. Price: \$ 7.50.



# NOTES

AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

It is suggested that you should not only read the material but also write down the points that are of interest to you. This will help you to remember the material and will also help you to discuss it with your colleagues.

Notes on the following pages

1. The first part of the paper deals with the history of the American Medical Association. It is a very interesting story and one that is not often told.

2. The second part of the paper deals with the work of the American Medical Association in the field of public health. It is a very important part of the work of the Association and one that is not often discussed.

3. The third part of the paper deals with the work of the American Medical Association in the field of medical education. It is a very important part of the work of the Association and one that is not often discussed.

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